

CHAPTER ONE **THE WALL FAMILY IN AMERICA**



he Scottish participation in the settlement of America dates from the early 17th Century, and from that time until the American Revolution, nearly 150,000 Scots emigrated to the New World. After the political union of Scotland and England in 1707, the Scots had unrestricted access to the English plantations in America.¹ The Virginia and Carolina Colonies were particularly favored by the tremendous influx of Scots--including the ancestors of William Madison Wall.

Family traits and characteristics are often passed on through generations and cultures. The pioneering spirit, or traces of it, can be found through the long line of the Wall family. Richard Wall (1697-1765) of Scotland, was the first of his lineage to cross the Atlantic Ocean in search of a new life. Recently published Scottish Parish Church records and colonial emigration documents point to him as one of the best candidates for the first immigrant of this Wall lineage.² In immigrating to the American colonies, Richard Wall opened many doors of opportunity for himself and his progenitors that would have otherwise remained closed to them.

The New World was always a source of intrigue and mystery for the early European travelers. The area in which Richard Wall would immigrate and raise his family was also an area that explorers attempted to settle on numerous occasions. The first known European exploration of the North Carolina area occurred during the summer of 1524. A Florentine navigator named Giovanni da Verrazano, in the service of France, explored the coastal area of North Carolina between the Cape Fear River area and Kitty Hawk. A report of his findings was sent to Francis I, and published in Richard Hakluyt's *Diuers Voyages touching the Discoverie of America*. No attempt was made to colonize the area.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES FOR SETTLERS

For private fresh provision, you may carry with you (in case you, or any of yours should be sick at Sea) Conserves of *Roses, Clove-Gilliflowers, Wormwood, Green-Ginger, Burnt-Wine, English Spirits, Prunes* to stew, *Raisons of the Sun, Currence, Sugar, Nutmeg, Mace, Cinnamon, Pepper and Ginger, White Bisket, or Spanish Rusk, Eggs, Rice, Juice of Lemmons*, well put up to cure, or prevent the Scurvy, *Small Skillets, Pipkins, Porrengers, and small Frying pans.*

To prevent or take away Sea Sickness, Conserve of Wormwood is very proper.

The settler also must take with him a supply of food to answer his needs on reaching Massachusetts, and it is advised that enough for the space of a year might be required in which case each person should be certain to have in store 8 bushels of meal, 2 bushels pease, 2 bushels oatmeal, 1 gallon brandy, 1 gallon oil and 2 gallons vinegar. Sugar can be had in New England as the Colonial vessels are bringing it from the West Indies in the way of trade, but spices, necessary to the English diet, must be brought from England.

Between 1540 and 1570, several Spanish explorers from the Florida Gulf region explored portions of North Carolina, but again no permanent settlements were established. Later, coastal North Carolina was the scene of the first attempt to colonize America by English-speaking people. Two colonies were begun in the 1580s under a charter granted by British Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Walter Raleigh. The first colony was established by Ralph Lane. This was the first English settlement in the New World. However, within three years, these brave pioneers vanished into the untamed wilderness, leaving behind no trace of their fate and creating a mystery that continues to haunt modern researchers. Lane's infamous colony is presently called "the Lost Colony."³

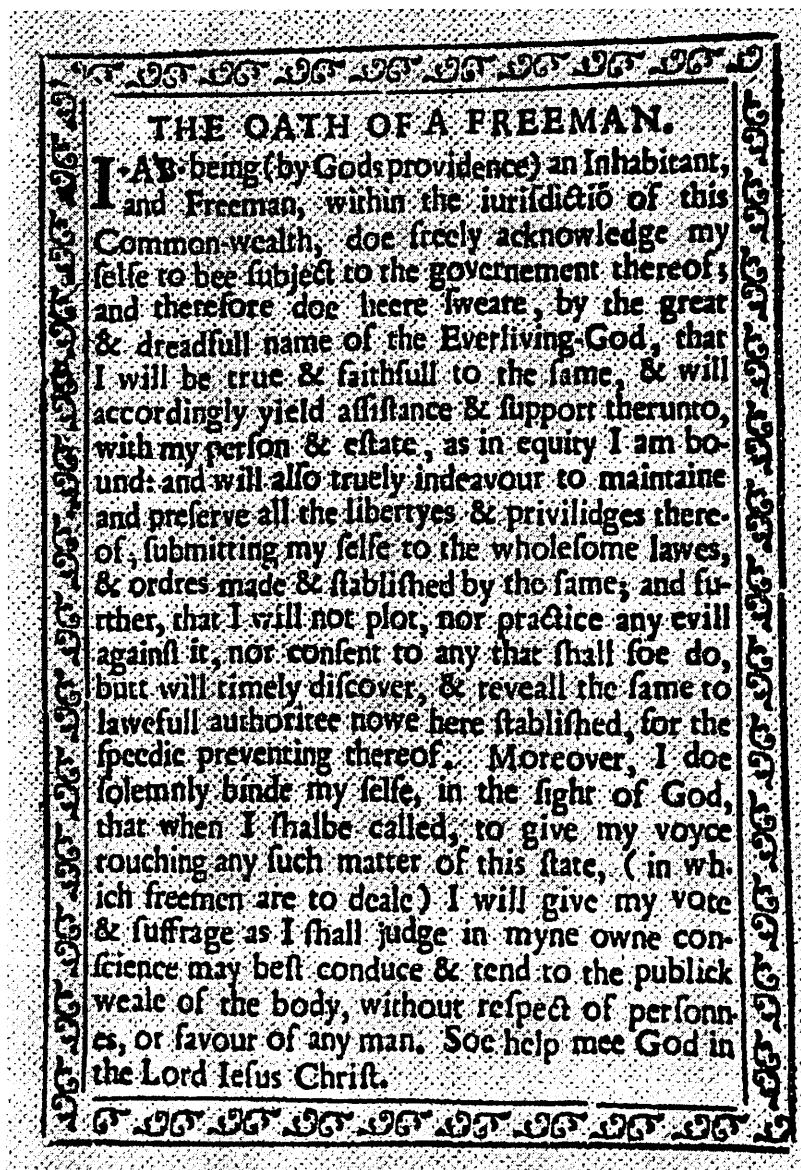
A second expedition under the leadership of John White began in the spring of 1587 when 110 settlers, including seventeen women and nine children, set sail for the new world. The White Colony arrived near Hatteras in June 1587, and went on to Roanoke Island, where they found the abandoned houses built by Ralph Lane's expedition still standing. The colonists faced many problems. As supplies ran short

White was pressured to return to England for provisions. Once in England, White was unable to immediately return to Roanoke Island because of an impending attack by the Spanish Armada. When he was finally able to return in 1590, he found only the remnants of what was once a settlement. There were no signs of life, only the word “CROATAN” carved on a nearby tree. The fates of the Lost Colony and White’s expedition remain an unsolved mystery.⁴ This land would later host the mass immigration of British colonists, including that of the Wall family.

SCOTTISH HISTORY

Animosity between England and Scotland came to a climax in 1651 after Charles II was crowned King of Scotland on 1 January. Just the previous year Charles’ father, Charles I, was beheaded for declining to sign the Covenant of Oliver Cromwell, who was at the time the self-proclaimed leader of England. Charles II also rebelled against Cromwell’s request to sign the religious document when Charles II was crowned King of Scotland, Cromwell sent troops to the borders of Scotland, and his 16,000 men had an easy time marching into the Scottish capital of Edinburgh. Charles II and his army, seeing their flank threatened and the road to the south open, set off boldly for England. They attempted to gather recruits and support, but were unsuccessful. On 3 September 1651, Cromwell caught up with them in Worcester, England. There he annihilated the Scottish invaders. Charles II fled the scene and was in hiding for six months before being discovered. With this English victory, Cromwell and the English Parliament consolidated England and Scotland into a single commonwealth. The Scottish people were not respected in Parliament or throughout England during this consolidation period. Cromwell, now known as Lord Protector of Great Britain, allowed only eight representatives from Scotland into the English Parliament. In 1658 Cromwell died, Charles II returned to the throne. In 1685, James II and VII was named King of England (James II of England and James VII of Scotland). During his reign the Treaty of Union was ratified, this solidified the consolidation of Scotland and England. Under this treaty, the two kingdoms became one and Scotland lost its political autonomy.⁵

Richard Wall was born in Scotland during this hostile time. He was born just before the turn of the century, in 1697. At this time a new major political battle was gaining momentum. In 1688, King James II was ousted from his throne in a political coup d’état by a family called Hanover. James II, being a progenitor of the long-standing



Richard Wall and other Scottish emigrants were delighted with The Oath of a Freeman.

royal family -- the Stuarts, was in exile for the rest of his life. His son James III sought to reclaim the throne; however, his attempt failed and he retreated into France and eastern Europe. When James III's son, Charles Stuart, was born the war between the Stuarts and the Hanovers intensified. Charles was known as the "Young Pretender" or "Bonnie Prince Charlie," but soon he would be recognized as the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne.

As he grew, Charles realized the injustices that removed him from his royal destiny. This realization spurred him to seek revenge. He returned to England and began to establish himself as the rightful nobility. He gained followers who agreed that the Stuarts were the rightful royal family. These followers were called Jacobites or Jacks (as the adherents of James II were called from his Latin name Jacobus). In a growing number of towns James was acknowledged as king of England and they ignored the Hanover claim to royalty. The Jacobite following continued to grow behind their leader, the Bonnie Prince.

The Jacobite army grew considerably large during the 1730s and 1740s. The bulk of the followers were from the Highlands of Scotland. With his army, Charles waged war throughout the countryside of England. They attacked government forces in every major city in Britain. With an army of nearly 20,000 men and financial support from Louis XV of France, Charles planned to lay siege on London. In 1745 he took the city of Derby with relative ease. In the winter of 1746, the Jacobite forces gained momentum with multiple victories, including the famous battle at Falkirk. Charles felt that the time was right to start their march south en route to London. However, this march from Scotland to London would not be easy for the army. King George II, a Hanover, had deployed troops to intercept the rebel army in the northern battlefields. Jacobite spies sent word to Charles that Hanoverian troops were located near the northern city of Nairn. Charles led his troops on a night march to Nairn to defend themselves. Their march was at a much slower pace than usual because of the darkness. When they had marched eight miles, they realized that by the time they reached Nairn, the sun would be up as would the Hanoverian troops. Their element of surprise would be destroyed so they returned to their base camp. After an hour, Jacobite scouts discovered that the Hanoverian army was on the march early in the morning as well. Their infantry was only four miles out of the Jacobite camp near Culloden.

Amid mass confusion and frenzy, the Jacobite army prepared for battle. Charles organized his troops into battle lines. He rode his horse in front of his men in hopes to rally the troops, but his speech was interrupted by Hanoverian cannon fire. The battle had begun. Jacobite men began to fall by the hundreds as the thunderous noise of the cannonade drowned out their screams. Cannon balls dissembled the Jacobite lines. As the infantry stormed in after the cannon fire, the body count

continued to rise and numerous prisoners were taken by the red-coated army. From a distant hill, Charles witnessed the destruction of his army. Dazed with disbelief, Charles was led off the battlefield by other commanding officers. The Bonnie Prince Charlie was later banished from England and the majority of the Jacobite prisoners were sentenced and transported out of Britain.⁶

The Highlanders from Scotland paid a terrible price in the aftermath of the rebellion. Lord Cumberland, one of the commanding generals of the king's troops, set out to find, capture and punish every person who had helped the Jacobite cause in any way -- especially the Scots who had supported the Stuarts. The rebels were guilty of treason and they received no mercy or leniency. They were punished for what they had already done and they were deprived of the will and the means to rebel in the future.

The destruction of the Highlanders began in the days immediately following Culloden, nearly 3,500 soldiers were taken. They were shipped to London, where most of them lay in prison ships on the Thames River where they either survived in a state of starvation or died from disease. Every twentieth prisoner was tried. Of these the majority were convicted and sentenced to be transported to the British colonies in North America or to the West Indies; about 120 prisoners were executed.

These were the political circumstances that contributed to Richard Wall's decision to immigrate. Many Scots immigrated to America at this time to escape persecution from the English. The Highlander support of the Bonnie Prince angered George II. Lord Cumberland led many raids upon the Scottish Highlands where small farms and villages were destroyed. The men from these villages were often enrolled into the King's army and the women were left. From 1746 until 1759 thousands of Scots immigrated to the British colonies in America. Richard Wall was among these men and women who sought freedom from the oppression of the anti-Scot hostility in Great Britain.

REFUGE IN THE NEW WORLD

Europeans began settling the "New World" as early as the sixteenth century. At this time, England was one of the few European nations without a sizeable colony in North America. In 1606, James I established two companies (the London Company and the Plymouth Company) made up of merchant/adventurers eager to pluck the tantalizing riches of North America. King James gave these men three objectives: find gold, find a route to the South Seas, and find the Lost Colony of Roanoke . The

expedition started a new colony known as Jamestown. This was a successful settlement and many others followed. Wealth came not from gold but from the harvesting of tobacco.

In 1632, King Charles I of England granted Lord Cecil Calvert a charter to the Maryland region. This charter roughly defined the Virginia Colony encompassing present day Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. With a boom in agricultural economy and a successful tobacco crop, the colonists soon found the need for indentured servants and slaves. In 1664 slavery became sanctioned by law in Maryland and throughout the colony. Nearly a century later, in 1732, the borders of Virginia were revised and Maryland became a separate entity.

By the time that Richard Wall and many of the Scottish Highlanders reached the colonies, political turmoil had spread from Scottish and French conflicts across the Atlantic Ocean to the colonies. Local colonists wanted sovereignty from the British throne and the British desired to maintain control. In about 1750, Richard Wall immigrated from Scotland to the Virginia Colony.⁷ Just fifteen years later, revolutionary actions were already occurring throughout the colonies. In 1765, citizens of Annapolis, Maryland rioted against the infamous Stamp Act. This act was a law passed by the British Parliament in 1765 to raise revenue. The Stamp Act was repealed one year later after colonial opposition.

In about 1753, Richard Wall and his wife had a son whom they named Richard Wall, Jr. (1753-1813).⁸ During this time the Wall family likely lived in the areas which now make up Culpeper, Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties in Virginia.

Economic prosperity opened up the gates to colonials to establish their own villages and lands. Prosperity in Virginia allowed migration into other colonies including the Carolina colony. In fact, the first settlers in North Carolina were from the Virginia colony.

HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA

During the time of the first European contacts, North Carolina was inhabited by a number of native tribes. The first permanent English settlers were immigrants from the Tidewater area of southeastern Virginia. The first of these settlers moved into the Albemarle area of northeast North Carolina around 1650. In 1663, King Charles II granted a charter to eight English noblemen who had assisted him to regain the throne of England. This charter gave these "Proprietors" rights to all of the natural resources



Early colonists in Virginia and the Carolinas struggled with the Tuscarora Indians.

of the region. The territory was to be called Carolina in honor of the King's brother, Charles the First. Between 1663 and 1729, North Carolina was under the control of the Lords Proprietors and their descendants who commissioned colonial officials and authorized the governor and his council to grant lands in the name of the Lords Proprietors. In 1669, John Locke wrote the Fundamental Constitutions as a model for the governments of Carolina. For a 20-year period, 1692-1712, the colonies of the present North Carolina and South Carolina existed as one unit of government.



This was typical attire in 17th century Virginia.



Early Virginia colonial men in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes.

In 1729, seven of the Lords Proprietors sold their interest in North Carolina to the British Crown and North Carolina became a royal colony. Although the hands of leadership changed drastically, the method of government did not differ from the days of the Proprietors. the King of England had total control over who would act as governing officials in the new colony. They appointed family members and business associates to be governors and magistrates in the colonies. During this time, these political leaders began to establish county boundaries which divided the colony into smaller sections.

The British Parliament was anxious to know the dimensions of the exodus to the American Colonies, and it ordered an emigration register in 1773 which continued until the Revolution. Emigrants totaled 9,662, including 298 convicts, and settled in distinct patterns: Englishmen to the prosperous middle Atlantic seaboard, Scotsmen to the New York and North Carolina frontiers--where land was still cheap and society unstructured. Register records show entire families emigrating from Scotland, squeezed by high rents, poverty, and unemployment. Farmers, semiskilled workers, and laborers prevailed; less than 20 percent were indentured.

Richard Wall and the other colonial settlers became increasingly more distant economically and politically from their British rulers. An on-going conflict between the citizens of western North Carolina, known as the Regulators, and Governor Richard Tryon culminated in the Battle of Alamance on 16 May 1771. The Regulators were protesting the inequitable and inefficient system of local government and the



Log cabin "raisings" were great social occasions in Colonial America.

widespread dissatisfaction with British Rule. Local leaders were executed on the battlefield, and six Regulators were hanged for treason following a court martial. This Battle of Alamance was the first overt military action against the British rule in North Carolina. However, this type of hostility was becoming more prevalent throughout the British Colonies. The settlers of these areas demanded their independence from the British Crown.

Not only did the colonists have difficulties with the British, they also had a long standing hostile relationship with the Native Americans already living in North Carolina. The Tuscarora Indians lived in North Carolina, where they had friendly relations with the settlers. Trouble began when the white settlers began to take advantage of the peaceful relationship. The Indians claimed that the colonists encroached on their farmland, cheated them in trade, and kidnaped their children and women and sold them into slavery. In retaliation, Tuscarora warriors, under Chief Hancock, raided white villages in 1711. The war quickly escalated. In a final standoff, Colonel James Moore led his men, aided by Yamasee Indians, into the Tuscarora village of Neoheroke in 1713, killing and capturing 1,000 inhabitants. Many were sold into slavery to finance the war effort. The surviving Tuscaroras migrated to the New York colony, where in 1722 they became the sixth nation in the Iroquois League.

Later in 1803, Thomas Jefferson drafted a treaty between the North Carolina State Legislature, the U.S. Government, and the Tuscarora Nation of Indians. The introduction of this treaty reads:

ARTICLES OF A TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE TUSCARORA NATION OF INDIANS

Whereas a large part of the Tuscarora nation of Indians reside at so remote a distance from the State of North Carolina that they are unable to receive any benefit from the lands, the use of which had been granted to the nation by the Legislature of that State, so long as they should occupy and live upon the same. And whereas the legislature of the State of North Carolina, in directing the use of the said lands, had heretofore permitted certain leases to be made of part thereof, and difficulties have arisen in the payment and receipt of the rents becoming due thereon.⁹

The Tuscarora nation was entitled to receive rental payments of the land and other benefits from the State of North Carolina after this treaty was ratified in January of 1803.

The British colonies were nearing revolution with Great Britain. Just as the political tension was ensuing, the Wall family followed other Virginians and migrated into North Carolina.¹⁰ While in North Carolina, the Wall family grew and prospered. During their stay in North Carolina, the Walls witnessed the Revolutionary War first hand and also saw the colonies forge together to form a new nation.

ENDNOTES

- ¹. *The Original Scots Colonists of Early America, 1612-1783*. David Dobson. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, Maryland, 1989.
- ². The 1997 publication of the *Old Parochial Registers Index* of the Church of Scotland by the LDS Family History Library has made available information on more than 10.5 million names listed on parish registers. The index contains entries dating from the late 1500s through 1854.
- ³. John Yoder, *Historical Highlights of North Carolina*., (Sussex Printing: Raleigh, North Carolina), 112.
- ⁴. Ibid., 113-114.
- ⁵. J. D. Mackie, *A History of Scotland*., 2nd edition, (Dorset Press: New York, New York: 1978), 224-241.
- ⁶. Carolly Erickson, *Bonnie Price Charlie*, (William Morrow and Company, Incorporated: New York, New York: 1989), 225.
- ⁷. *Virginia Ancestors: A Genealogical Index of Surnames*, 4 vols. (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1990).
- ⁸. *Pittsylvania County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 1767-1864*. Film #1,321,050 LDS Family History Library.
- ⁹. *Treaty with the Tuscarora Nation of Indians*, United States Government to Tuscarora Nation of Indians, written by Thomas Jefferson, 1803.
- ¹⁰. *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, second series, 7 vols. (Raleigh: State Archive, 1994).



Norfolk, Virginia was a busy harbor by 1750.